

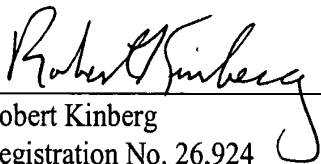
Applicant(s): Frank VOLKE et al.

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is made to eliminate multiple claim dependency. Examination on the merits of the application is requested. A marked up version showing the changes made to claim 5 is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Kinberg  
Registration No. 26,924  
VENABLE  
P.O. Box 34385  
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 962-4800  
Telefax: (202) 962-8300

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**MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIM**

**Claim 5 has been amended as follows:**

5. A coupling agent according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein said mixture is composed solely of biocompatible substances.